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Places in Egypt: Overview

The contemporary cultural, social, and geographic division of Egypt into UPPER EGYPT and LOWER EGYPT dates from before 3100 BCE, when Egypt was divided into two kingdoms. The Pharaoh Menes united the two kingdoms around 3100 BCE, and established a northern capital at Memphis and a southern one in Abydos.

Although the nomenclature is confusing, Upper Egypt is the southern part of the country, whereas Lower Egypt is in the north. This is because the Nile flows north; going “up” the river, then, is technically going south. These two divisions—with an additional MIDDLE EGYPT helping to locate sites in this vast region—are still used today.

LOWER EGYPT refers to the region north of what is modern day Cairo. It is at this point that the Nile splits into numerous branches, making a very fertile delta area. UPPER EGYPT traditionally referred to the region from modern Cairo south to what is now the southern end of Lake Nasser, roughly located at Abu Simbel at the border with modern day Sudan. However, this course will also use the category of MIDDLE EGYPT to aid in locating sites; Middle Egypt will refer to the region between Memphis (just south of Cairo) and Abydos, just north of the Thebes region.

Places in Egypt: Lower Egypt

Provides background information to some significant places in Lower Egypt that are represented in the Travelers in the Middle East Archive (TIMEA) collection of digital texts, images and maps. Part 2 of a 4-part course on identifying places in Egypt, including major cities, archaeological sites, and regions.

Al Jizah

Alternative Names: Gizeh (Egypt); Gizah (Egypt); Gîza (Egypt); Ghizeh (Egypt); El Gizeh (Egypt); El-Gîza (Egypt)

Latitude/Longitude: 30° 00' 31" N/ 031° 12' 44" E [note: these coordinates are for the city of Gizeh, not the Pyramids of Giza]

Sunset at the Pyramids of Giza.



EGYPT. - Sunset at the Pyramids of Giza.

[Original postcard: "CAIRO. - Sunset at the Pyramids of Giza."](#) 5.25"
x 3.25". From [TIMEA](#)

Located on a leveled limestone plateau just south of Cairo on the west bank of the Nile, Giza is the site of the most recognizable archaeological monuments in the world, the Great Sphinx and the Great Pyramid. The complex also features several lesser pyramids, as well as cemeteries. The structures once overlooked the ancient city of Memphis, located in what is now central Cairo. Some of the tombs date to the First Dynasty (3300-2788 BCE), but the majority of construction took place in the 4th Dynasty (2693-2563 BCE).

Related Resources

- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)
- [The Giza Archives Project](#)

Alexandria

Latitude/Longitude: 30° 00' 31" N/ 031° 12' 44" E

Street Scene near Pompey's Pillar, Alexandria



Original postcard: ["Street Scene near Pompey's Pillar, Alexandria."](#)

(Raphael Tuck and Sons, ca. 1900). 5.5"x 3.5". From [TIMEA](#)

The area that is now the port city of Alexandria has been inhabited for millennia, perhaps as early as the 13th century BCE. However, the small fishing village did not become a city of note until Alexander the Great asked the Greek architect Dinocrates to build a city there. After marking the outlines of the city, he left it, never to return, except, according to legend, to be buried there. During the Ptolemaic era, the city became quite possibly the largest city in the world, and was certainly the intellectual capital of the world. It developed an atmosphere distinctly different from that of Cairo, reflecting Mediterranean influences more than Egyptian. When the Ottomans came to rule the region, they rebuilt the city, burying many ancient sites and leaving little of archaeological interest.

Related Resources

- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)

Banhā

Alternative Names: Benna; Benha; Bandar Banhā; Athribis

Latitude/Longitude: 30° 27' 39" N/ 031° 11' 15" E

Located on the Damietta (east) arm of the Nile, north of Cairo, this city is known for its production of honey and attar of roses. Archaeologically, the only aspect of interest is the nearby scant remains of the ancient city of Athribis, which contain part of a temple dedicated to a goddess, and a cache of silver jewelry found by fellaheen. Nearby is the White Monastery, once a huge complex harboring 4000 thousand monks and nuns, but now reduced to a single church.

Related Resources

- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)

Cairo

Alternative Names: Al Qāhirah; Misr; Masr; Le Caire; Kairo; El-Qāhira; El Kahirah; El Kahira

Latitude/Longitude: 30° 03' 00" N 031° 15' 00" E
View of Cairo, Egypt



Original postcard: "[View of Cairo, Egypt.](#)" (H. C. White Co., 1909).
14 x 9 cm, 5.6 x 3.5 inches. From [TIMEA](#)

Cairo is the seventh largest metropolitan area in the world today. Though its name means “the conqueror”, it is most often referred to as Misr, the local name for the entire country of Egypt. The original town of Cairo was too far from the Nile to support a large city, and the ancient capital of Egypt was located in Memphis, which is just south of the modern city. Modern Cairo dates to the establishment of a Roman fort in 150 and called Babylon-in-Egypt. It became a fair-sized town inhabited by Coptic Christians, but in 642 was captured by the Arabs. The first mosque in Africa was built here,

and with the establishment of Al-Azhar mosque and its university, Cairo became a great center of learning. The decline of Baghdad led to the further importance of Cairo, and it was probably the largest city in the world during the fourteenth century. Beginning in the sixteenth century it was governed by the Ottomans, with a brief period of French control. In the nineteenth century it saw a great deal of westernization, due to the influence of Great Britain and the building of the Suez Canal. After independence from Britain in the early twentieth century, it continued to grow, both in area and population. Today it is a huge modern city, known to most of the world as the starting point for travel to the great sites of ancient Egypt.

Related Resources

- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)

Giza (Gizeh; Gizah; Gîza); Ghizeh

See [Al Jîzah](#)

Heliopolis

Latitude/Longitude: 30° 09' 00" N/ 031° 19' 00" E
HELIOPOLIS - Panoramic View



Original postcard: "[HELIOPOLIS - Panoramic View.](#)" (Cairo Postcard Trust, n.d.). 5.5"x 3.5". From [TIMEA](#)

The ancient Heliopolis was inhabited as early as the Predynastic Period and there were many structures built during the Old and Middle Kingdoms. However, today there are few remnants of the complex, as building materials from the temples and other structures were used in the building of Ottoman Cairo. The complex served as the capital of Egypt for a time, and was the location of the grain reserve; in fact, one story from The Book of the Dead recounts Horus feeding the multitudes with 7 loaves of bread. In the Greco-Roman period the city was a center of learning but was later eclipsed by Alexandria. Several monuments were removed from the city, including the famed Cleopatra's Needle. Today most of the area is under cultivation, but there are some remaining walls. This ancient city should not be confused with the upscale modern suburb of Cairo by the same name.

Related Resources

- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)

Imbābah

Alternative Names: Inbada; Imbadah; Imbâba; Ebaba

Latitude/Longitude: 30° 04' 00" N/ 031° 13' 00" E

A city in the Al Jīzah governate, and part of the greater Cairo metropolitan area.

Related Resources

- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)

Ismailia

Alternative Names: Al Ismā‘īlīyah; Ismailiyah; Ismailîya; Ismailieh; Al Ismā‘īlīya

Latitude/Longitude: 30° 35' 00" N/ 032° 16' 00" E
Plan of Ismailiya

Pithom

Latitude/Longitude: 30° 33' 00" N/ 032° 04' 00" E

The Brick store-chambers of Pithom, the city built by Hebrew bondsmen (looking north)



Original stereocard: "[The Brick store-chambers of Pithom, the city built by Hebrew bondsmen \(looking north\)](#)" (Underwood and Underwood, 1904). 7.75 x 4.2 inches. From [TIMEA](#)

The location of Pithom was the subject of much discussion among Bible scholars, as it is mentioned in the Bible as one of the cities built by the Israelites for the Egyptian Pharaoh. Its location was determined in 1883 by Édouard Naville. Located southwest of Ismailia in Lower Egypt, the main discoveries here were a number of large honey-combed chambers, which most likely served as granaries for the Egyptian army.

Related Resources

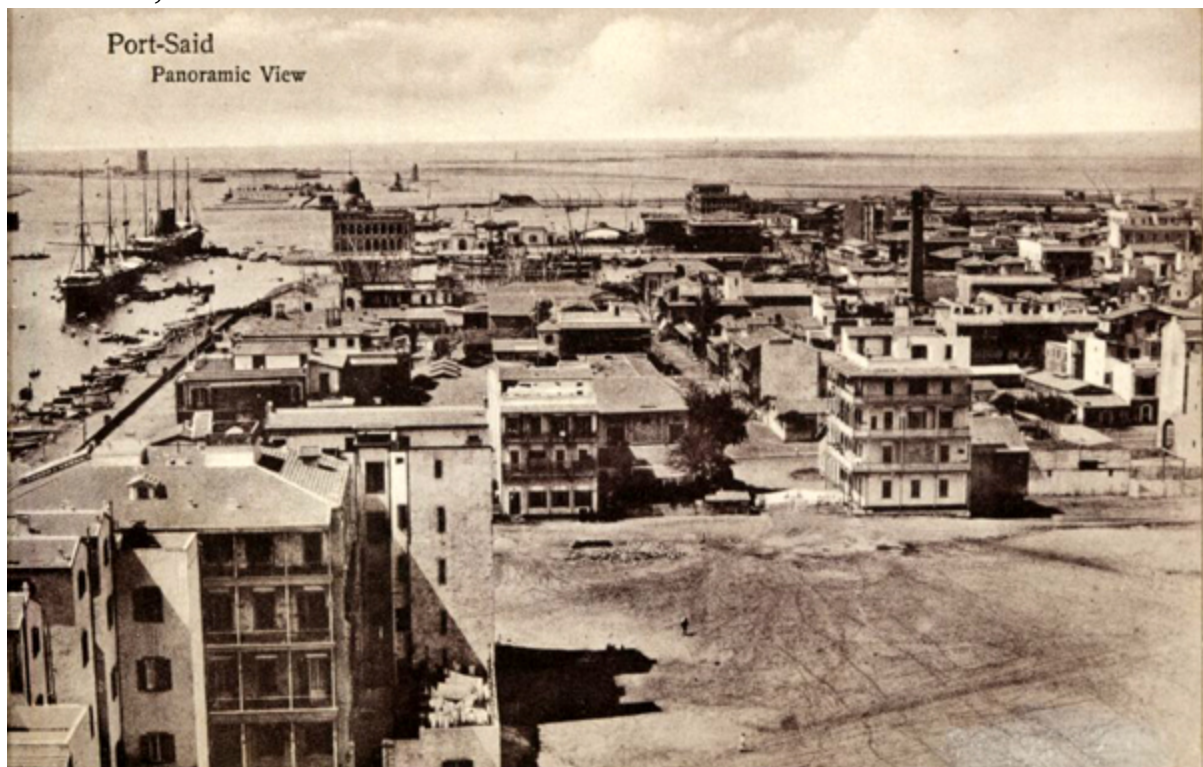
- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)

Port Said

Alternative Names: Būr Sa'īd; Madīnet Port Said; Madīnat Būr Sa'īd; Bor Sa'īd

Latitude/Longitude: 31° 16' 00" N/ 032° 18' 00" E

Port Said, Panoramic View



Original postcard: ["Port Said, Panoramic View"](#) (Cairo Postcard

Trust, n.d.). 5.25"x 3.5". From [TIMEA](#)

This city lacks any connection to Egypt's ancient past; it is the expansion of what was originally a camp for men working on the Suez Canal. However, by the late 19th century it had become an important port city and was home to numerous consulates. In addition to the attractions of the port, where much of the world's sea traffic waits to enter the Suez Canal, it is also home to a great deal of 19th century colonial architecture and several museums. Heavily damaged in the wars of 1967 and 1973, it has been rebuilt and is today a very pleasant city of roughly 400,000.

Related Resources

- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)

Rosetta

Alternative Names: Rashīd; Rashîd; Rosette; Er-Rashid; Bolbitine

Latitude/Longitude: 31° 24' 16" N/ 030° 24' 59" E

This town is most closely associated with the finding of the Rosetta Stone, which was instrumental in deciphering ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. However, its strategic location on the Rosetta arm of the Nile and the Mediterranean coast made it a very important site for military bases, even from predynastic eras, and it was of great interest to the Ottomans and other colonial powers. Although its fame is based on the Rosetta Stone, found in 1799 and now housed in the British Museum, today the town is a testament to the glories of Ottoman architecture. At least 22 houses of Ottoman design, along with several mosques and churches, were built with a unique brown brick and feature beautiful mashrabiyyas, the intricately carved window screens so characteristic of North African architecture.

Related Resources

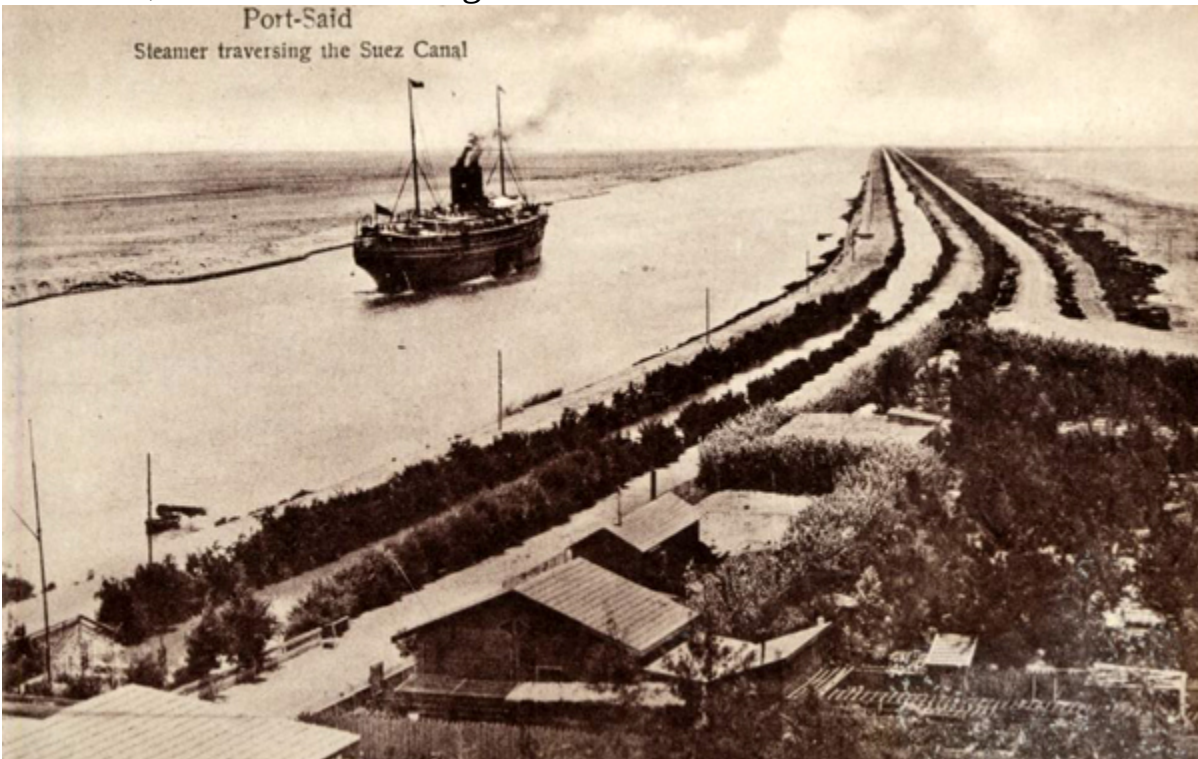
- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)

Suez Canal

Alternative Names: Qanat as Suways; Qana el Suweis

Latitude/Longitude: 29.9166667 / longitude 32.55

Port Said, Steamer Traversing the Suez Canal



Original postcard: ["Port Said, Steamer Traversing the Suez Canal."](#)
(Cairo Postcard Trust, n.d). 5.25"x 3.5". From [TIMEA](#)

Linking the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, this feat of engineering opened in 1869. Although not the first canal (earlier ones, though not exactly in the same location as the modern one, include ones built by Darius I and Trajan), the modern canal stretches over a hundred miles, from Port Said on the Mediterranean to Suez and the Red Sea. Its opening was the cause of international celebration and was attended by royalty from all over the

world; it was also marked by the opening of the “Old” Cairo Opera House, which has since been demolished.

Related Resources

- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)

Places in Egypt: Middle Egypt

Abīdūs, Ma'bad

Alternative Names: Abydos

Latitude/Longitude: 26° 10' 50" N/31° 54' 57" E

Abydos



Map: Heinrich Kiepert, "[Abydos.](#)" Baedeker, Karl. "Egypt: Handbook For Travellers. Fourth Remodelled Edition". (K. Baedeker: Leipsic, 1898): 208a. From [TIMEA](#)

This important site is 300 miles south of Cairo, on the western side of the Nile. It is most often referred to as the “home” of Osiris, god of the dead and the underworld, and served as a place of pilgrimage for thousands of years. Egypt’s earliest rulers are buried here, and it is the birthplace of both Egyptian writing and the boat burial cult. One of the temples was begun by

Seti I and continued by his son Ramesses II, but the most remarkable aspect of Abydos is the Osireion, the symbolic tomb of Osiris.

Related Resources

- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)

Al-Fayyūm

Alternative Names: Shedit; Medinat Fayum; Médinat el-Fayoum; Madīnet el Faiyūm; Fayyum; Fayyoun; Fayum; Fayoum; Fayoom; El Faiyûm; Crocodilopolis; Arsinoë

Latitude/Longitude: 29° 18' 28" N/030° 50' 24" E

A region situated on the western side of the Nile, south of Cairo, known for its fertile land; it produces cereals, dates, roses, and even olives. In Pharonic times the region was the center for the worship of Sobek, the crocodile god, and the Greeks referred to the region as Crocodilopolis. Later called Arsinoe by the Romans, it was both the seat of the Episcopal see and a large center of early Egyptian Christian life until the Copts surrendered the city to one of Muhammad's lieutenants in 642. The region features 200 waterwheels built in Ptolemaic times, which are not found in any other region of Egypt, as well as numerous Coptic monasteries.

Related Resources

- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)
- [Fayum Villages Project: The Fayum](#)

Asyūt

Alternative Names: Siut; Lycopolis ; Līkūpūlīs ; Licopolis ; Assuit; Assiut ; Assiout

Latitude/Longitude: 27° 10' 58" N/ 031° 10' 58" E

The Great Coptic Centre in Egypt-Assiout.



P. Dittrich, "[The Great Coptic Centre in Egypt-Assiout.](#)" "Modern Sons of the Pharaohs." (Hodder and Stoughton: London, 1918) p 336.
From [TIMEA](#)

First settled in Pharaonic times, this city was later renamed Lycopolis by the Greeks because of the local importance of the Jackal gods Wepwawet and Anubis; the mummified remains of many wolves have been found there, and a legend recounts that wolves attacked and repelled an invading army of Ethiopians. As a regional capital, it was the final resting place of numerous governing officials; their tombs are hollowed out of nearby hills, which also served as homes for early Christian hermits.

Related Resources

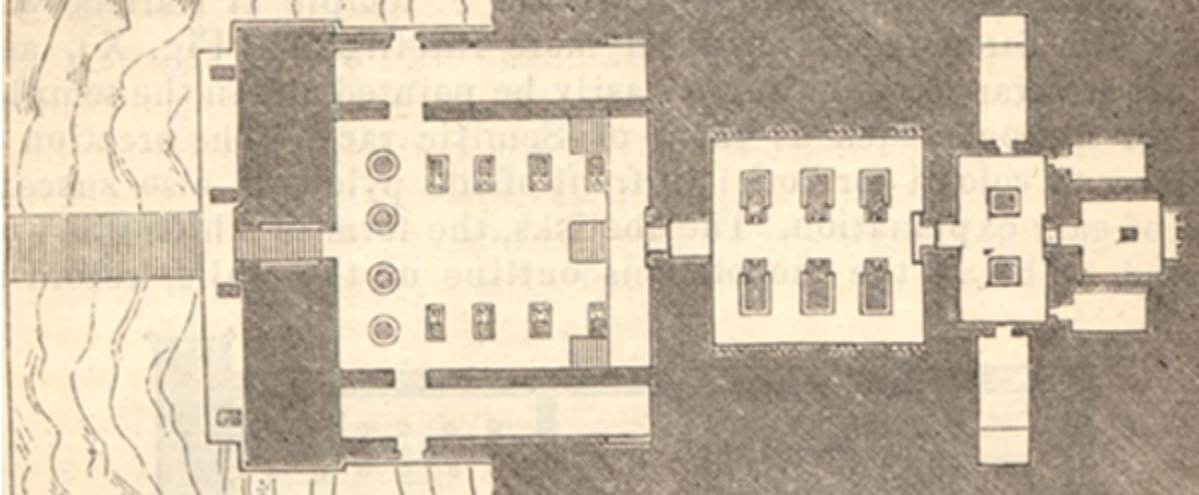
- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)

Jirjā

Alternative Names: Girga

Latitude/Longitude: 26° 20' 45" N/ 031° 53' 10" E

Ground Plan of the Grotto of Girgeh.



["Ground Plan of the Grotto of Girgeh."](#) "Egypt, Handbook for Traveling, pt.1 Lower Egypt, with the Fayum and the peninsula of Sinai". (K. Baedeker, Leipsic, 1885) p. 170. From [TIMEA](#)

A city near to the ancient city of Abydos, located on the west bank of the Nile, in lower Middle Egypt. It is named for St. George and is the seat of a Coptic Bishopric; it is also home to the oldest Catholic monastery in Egypt. This town is likely the site of the ancient city of This, ancestral home of the First Egyptian Dynasty, the rulers who united Upper and Lower Egypt.

Related Resources

- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)

Masārah

Alternative Names: Nazlet el Nasāra; Nazlat al Masārah; Masāra

Latitude/Longitude: 27° 29' 30" N/ 030° 50' 15" E

An area just south and across the Nile from Memphis, this area was mostly used as a limestone quarry for building projects. This area is still in use as a quarry.

Related Resources

- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)

Memphis

Latitude/Longitude: 29° 52' 00" N/ 031° 15' 00" E

The Site of the Ancient Memphis: A Village and Its Cemetery.



["The Site of the Ancient Memphis: A Village and Its Cemetery."](#)

"Oriental Cairo: the city of the 'Arabian Nights.'" (J.B. Lippincott Company: Philadelphia and Hurst & Blackett, Ltd.: London, 1911). p 334. From [TIMEA](#)

Founded around 3,100 BCE, and situated at the beginning point of the Nile Delta, this city was the first capital of a united Egypt, though it was likely inhabited long before that. And even though the capital moved to Thebes, the city retained its importance and size; the ancient cemeteries stretch for

19 miles along the bank of the Nile, giving us an indication of the city's immense population. The most significant ruins and statuary today are a colossus of Ramses II and an alabaster sphinx. A temple to Ptah was excavated by William Flanders Petrie, but there is little left of it. Once surrounded by white walls, they eventually eroded, allowing the city to be covered with silt. Located just south of Cairo, it was in an excellent position to command both Lower and Upper Egypt, as is Cairo today.

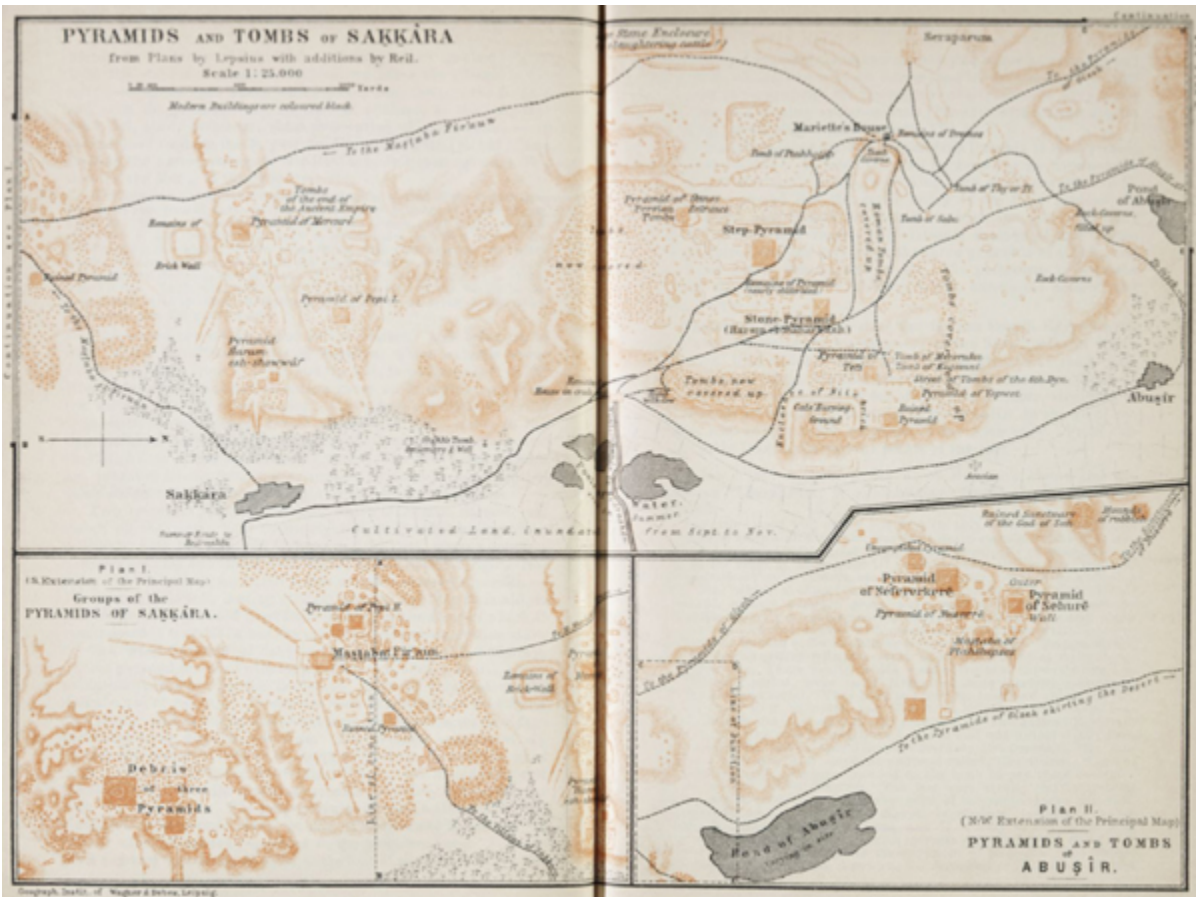
Related Resources

- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)

Saqqarah

Alternative Names: Şaqqâra; Sakkara

Latitude/Longitude: 29° 51' 00" N/ 031° 13' 00" E
Pyramids and Tombs of Sakkara



Wagner & Debes ["Pyramids and Tombs of Sakkara."](#) "Egypt and the Sudân. Sixth remodelled edition". (K. Baedeker: Leipzig, 1908): 142bc. From [TIMEA](#)

Located about two miles southwest of Memphis, and serving as the necropolis for the ancient capital of Egypt, this site houses the first significant Old Kingdom pyramid, the step pyramid tomb of Zoser (Djoser). The architect for the complex, which is the site of at least 16 pyramids, was the highly respected Imhotep, and today there is an Imhotep Museum on the site. Additionally, Saqqarah was the tomb of Apis, the bull who represented Osiris on earth. Many mummified bulls had been pilfered from the temple, but one remained and is now in the Agricultural Museum of Egypt.

Related Resources

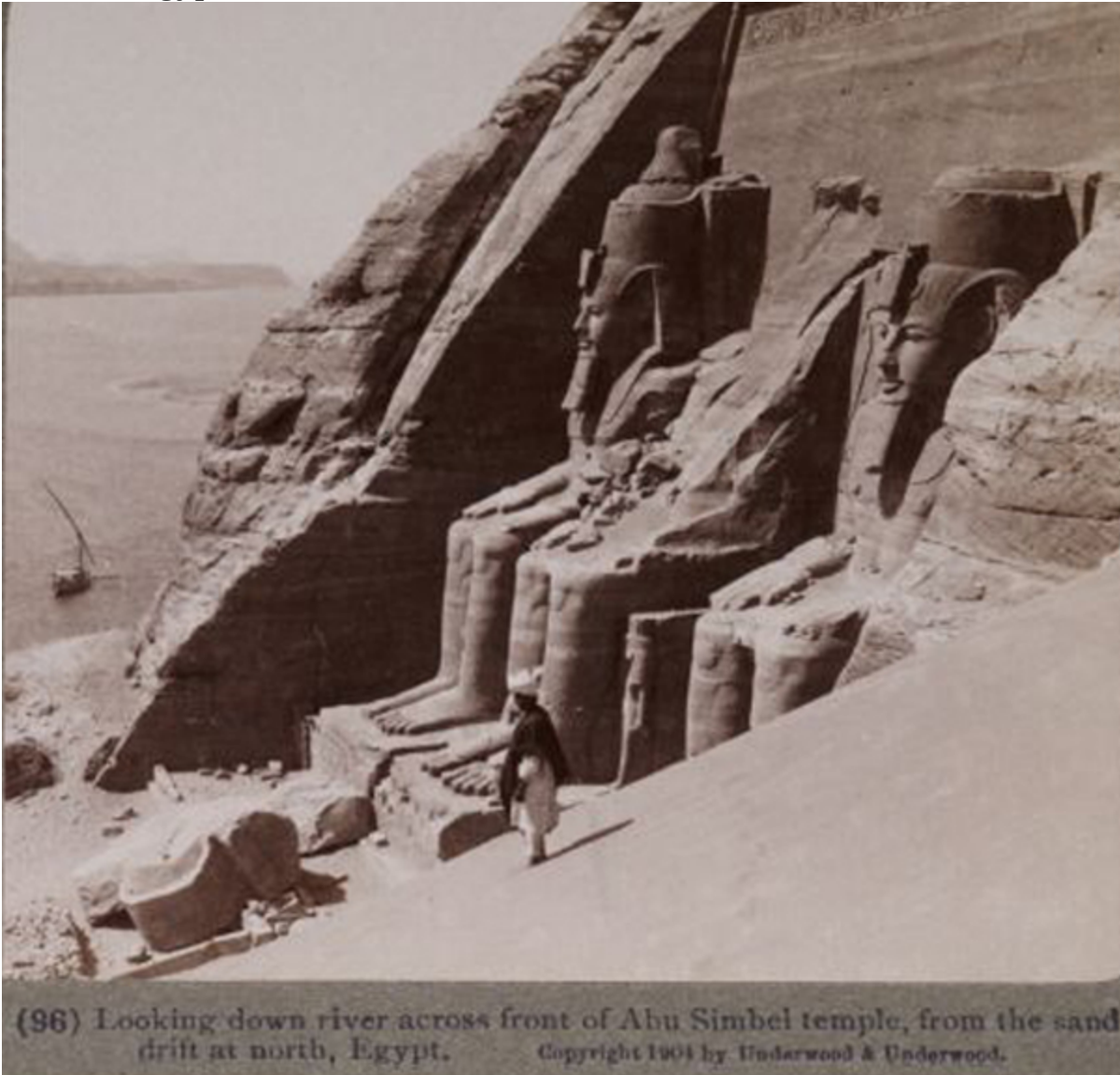
- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)

Places in Egypt: Upper Egypt

Abû Simbel

Latitude/Longitude: 24° 24' 00" N/033° 01' 00" E

Looking down river across front of Abu Simbel temple, from the sand drift at north, Egypt.



Original stereograph: "[Looking down river across front of Abu Simbel temple, from the sand drift at north, Egypt.](#)" (Underwood and Underwood, 1904). 7.75 x 4.2 inches. From [TIMEA](#)

Although the name is not as familiar as Karnak or Giza, the magnificent temples here are some of the most recognized images in Egypt. As famous for their relocation ahead of the construction of the new Aswan dam as for the temples themselves, these structures are located on the western bank of what is now Lake Nassar, 180 miles south of Aswan in what was once known as Nubia. The two temples were built by Ramesses II (the Great); the larger features four massive statues of Ramesses seated on thrones, carved into the walls of the temple. The smaller temple was built in honor of Ramesses' wife Nefertari, and was dedicated to Hathor, goddess of love, music, and beauty. It also features figures carved into the stone of the temple itself. Beginning in 1964 in a feat of archaeological engineering, these temples were cut into blocks and reassembled at a new location further away from the rising waters of the Nile.

Related Resources

- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)
- [World Heritage: Nubian Monuments from Abu Simbel to Philae](#)

Al Fashn

Alternative Names: Fashn; Fashn; El Fashn;

Latitude/Longitude: 28° 49' 22" N/30° 53' 52" E

A small agricultural village in the governate of Beni Suef, in Upper Egypt.

Related Resources

- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)

Al Kāb

Alternative Names: Nikhâb, Ancient Town of; Nekheb; Nekhab, Ancient Town of; Satma Kob; Kobba; Kobb; Koba; El-Kâb; Eileithyiaspolis;

Eileithyiaspolis; Ancient Town of Nikhab Eiteithyiaspolis

Latitude/Longitude: 25° 07' 10" N/32° 47' 50" E

Walled city of El Kab, ancient capital of Upper Egypt, S.W. from the door of a cliff-tomb, Egypt.



(80) Walled city of El Kab, ancient capital of Upper Egypt, S. W. from the door of a cliff-tomb, Egypt. Copyright 1904 by Underwood & Underwood.

Original stereograph: ["Walled city of El Kab, ancient capital of Upper Egypt, S.W. from the door of a cliff-tomb, Egypt."](#)

(Underwood and Underwood, 1904). 7.75 x 4.2 inches. From [TIMEA](#)

This region refers to two ancient sites on either side of the Nile, Nekheb on the east and Nekhen on the west. Both cities served as religious centers as early as the pre-Dynastic periods, but also flourished during the Ptolemaic and Roman periods. Nekheb was dedicated to the vulture goddess, Nekhbet, patron goddess of Upper Egypt. Nekhen served for sometime as the capital of Upper Egypt and was dedicated to the falcon god Horus; however, the city was later supplanted in importance by Edfu. In addition to numerous tombs, excavated areas also yielded two complete and one partial human-faced masks, used during the Fourth Dynasty.

Related Resources

- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)
- [The Site of El Kab](#)

Al Karnak

Alternative Names: Karnak; El Kharnâk; El Karnak

Latitude/Longitude: 25° 43' 00" N/ 032° 39' 00" E

The Entire length of the gigantic temple of Amon at Karnak, (view N.W.)
Thebes, Egypt



Original stereograph: "[The Entire length of the gigantic temple of Amon at Karnak, \(view N.W.\) Thebes, Egypt.](#)" (Underwood and Underwood, 1904). 7.75 x 4.2 inches. From [TIMEA](#)

Second only to the Pyramids at Al Jīzah in popularity with tourists, Karnak refers to the huge temple complex on the east side of the Nile, in Upper Egypt. Often referred to as one temple, Al Karnak is actually a series of temples, built and enlarged over a period of at least 1300 years, beginning in the 16th century BCE and contributed to by approximately 30 pharaohs, extending into Ptolemaic times. The complex is dedicated to Amon-Re, the King of the Gods. The complex also includes red granite obelisks, pylons, or great gates to the complex, and an avenue of ram-headed sphinxes, each holding a small figure of Amon-Re between its paws.

Related Resources

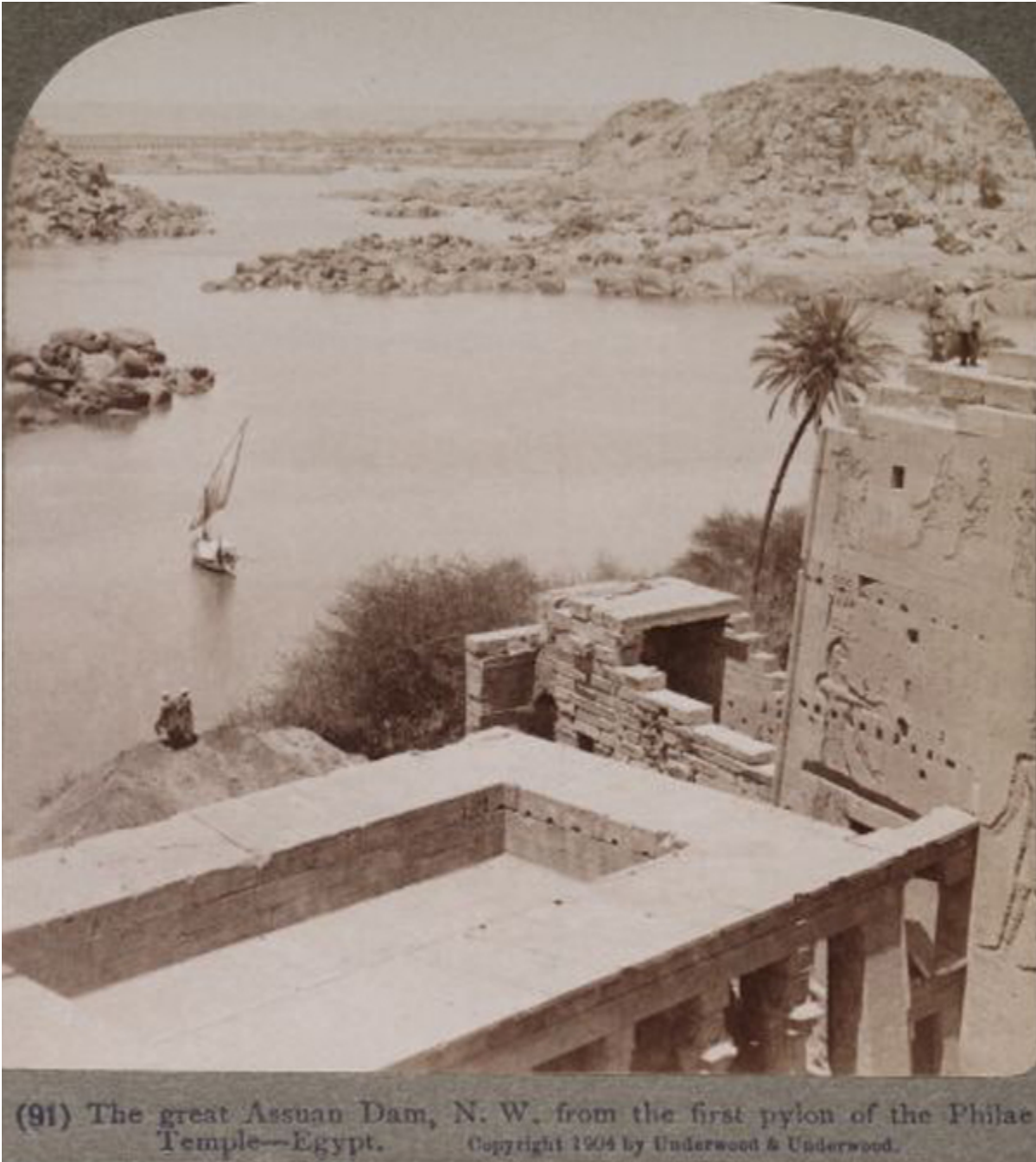
- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)

Aswān

Alternative Names: Aswân; Aswân; Syeue; Syene; Syena; Es-Suan; Assuan; Assouan

Latitude/Longitude: 24° 05' 15" N /032° 53' 56" E

The Great Assuan Dam, N.W. from the first pylon of the Philae Temple--
Egypt



Original stereograph: ["The Great Assuan Dam, N.W. from the first pylon of the Philae Temple--Egypt."](#) (Underwood and Underwood, 1904). 7.75 x 4.2 inches. From [TIMEA](#)

Located at the first cataract on the Nile, modern Aswan is a small town on the east bank which faces the desert on the west bank. It is in what was called Nubia, and is the southernmost town of consequence in Egypt. It is a favorite tourist destination because of its proximity to numerous sites of interest. The island of Elephantine has evidence of civilizations existing before the dynasties of ancient Egypt, and apparently housed a Jewish community as well. The Temple of Isis and Kiosk of Trajan on Philae Island, like the structures at Abu Simbel, were deconstructed and rebuilt on New Philae (Agilkia) Island during the 1960's. The region is also the site of enormous granite quarries, which provided much of the building materials used in ancient temples and statuary.

Related Resources

- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)

Dandarah

Alternative Names: Tentyra; Denderah; Dandara

Latitude/Longitude: 26° 10' 09" N/ 032° 39' 19" E

The Beautiful temple of Hathor at Denderah--view S. over remains of a vanished city, Egypt



Original stereograph: "[The Beautiful temple of Hathor at Denderah--view S. over remains of a vanished city, Egypt.](#)" (Underwood and Underwood, 1904). 7.75 x 4.2 inches. From [TIMEA](#)

Located in Northern Upper Egypt, this city was an important administrative capital from the end of the Old Kingdom to the end of the Middle Kingdom, and according to legend, was the site of a battle between the god Horus and the evil god Seth. Although some of the finds there were very old, including catacombs of sacred animals, the majority its archaeological remains date from the Roman era. Certainly the most impressive structure is the temple of Hathor, originally built much earlier but reworked and dedicated to the reign of Tiberius Caesar (14-37 CE). It features columns bearing the face of Hathor, as well as inscriptions of Cleopatra and her son Caesareon; numerous astrological and astronomical charts are engraved in the walls and ceilings as well. When Napoleon visited the area he found an entire Arab village living inside the temple; evidence of their fires can still be seen on some of the ceilings.

Related Resources

- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)

Dayr al Baḥrī, Ḥawḍ ad

Alternative Names: Deir el Baḥari, Ḥôḍ el

Latitude/Longitude: 25° 20' 00" N/ 032° 34' 00" E

This location, situated in a natural rock amphitheater on the Western bank of the Nile, directly across from Karnak, and marking the entrance to the Valley of Kings, is most known for the beautiful temple of Queen Hatshepsut, a pharaoh of the New Kingdom. However, remains of two other temples can be found there, as well as a number of private tombs. A shaft tomb was found to contain forty royal mummies from the 11th Dynasty, which had apparently been reinterred there by 21st Dynasty priests. The mummies of priests were also found there. But Queen Hatshepsut's temple is by far the most important aspect of the site, and the temple's beauty has been compared to the Parthenon. Its reliefs and paintings have been carefully restored.

Related Resources

- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)

Idfū

Alternative Names: Idfū Bahri; Idfu Bahari; Edfu; Edfou; Apollonopolis Magna

Latitude/Longitude: 24° 58' 00" N/ 032° 52' 00" E

Wonderfully preserved temple of Edfu, The, seen (N.) from top of first pylon--Egypt



Original stereograph: "[Wonderfully preserved temple of Edfu, The, seen \(N.\) from top of first pylon--Egypt.](#)" (Underwood and Underwood, 1904). 7.75 x 4.2 inches. From [TIMEA](#)

Located in Upper Egypt on the west bank of the Nile, Idfū is home to an almost perfectly preserved temple dedicated to the gods Horus, his wife Hathor, and their son Harsomtus, built during the Ptolemaic era. Almost completely buried in sand until excavated in 1860, it has yielded inscriptions, many still revealing their color. A stunning statue of Horus as the falcon stands guard at the temple, which contained numerous rooms, some used for the mixing of magical ointments. Not only is this the best preserved temple in Egypt, it is also the second largest, after the temple at Karnak.

Related Resources

- [Browse TIMEA historical resources related to this place](#)

Isnā

Alternative Names: Latopolis; Latopolia; Latónpolis; Esneh; Esna; Asnā

Latitude/Longitude: 25° 17' 35" N/ 032° 33' 10" E

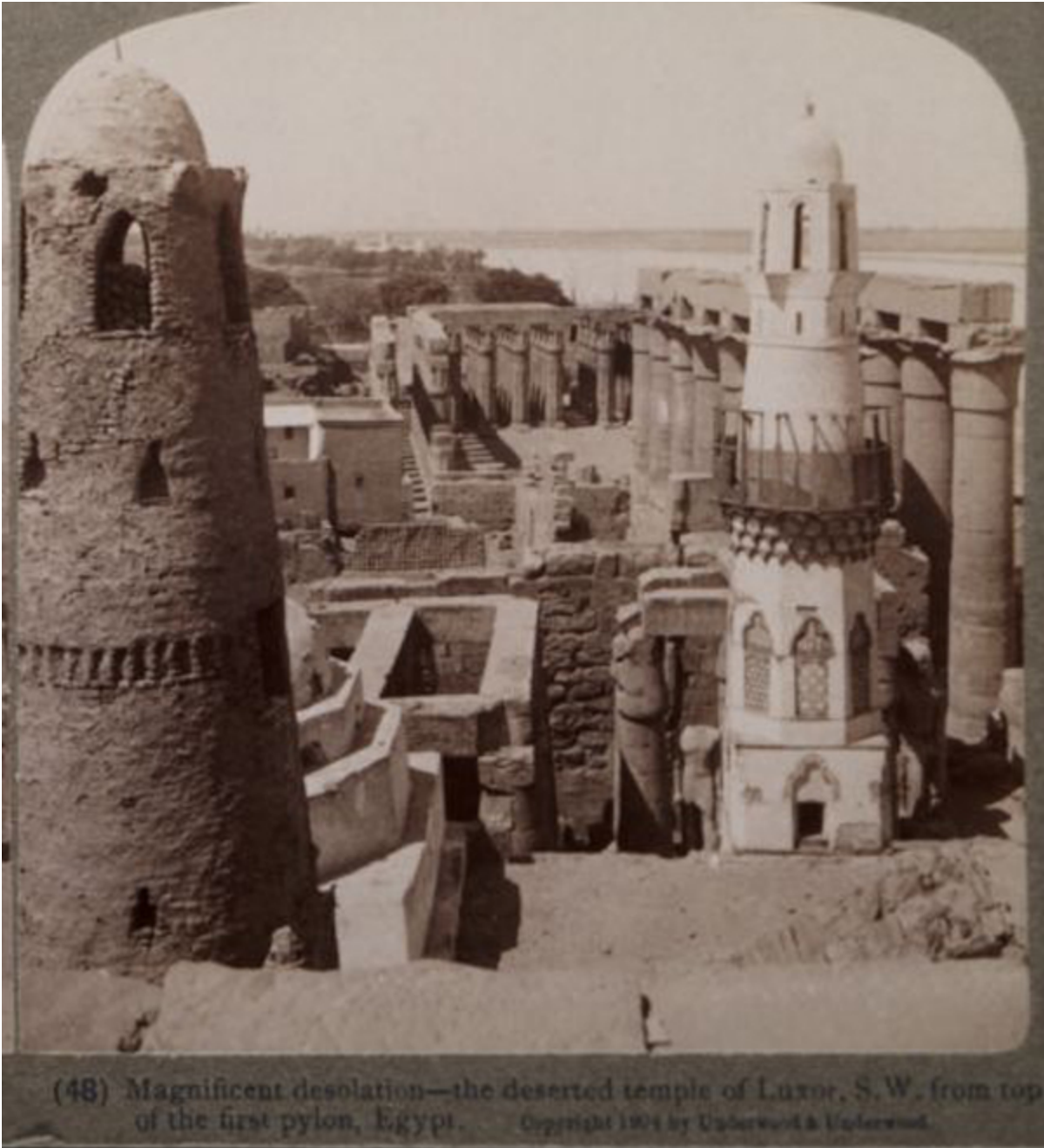
Although a door jamb of the Temple of Khnum is from the 18th Dynasty, the rest of the temple located here dates from the age of the Ptolemies and the Romans. The site was called Latopolis by the Greeks, in honor of the Nile Perch, and many graves attest to the veneration of the fish. The Temple, however, is dedicated to the ram headed god, a creator deity. Today, the city has a large Coptic community.

Luxor

Alternative Names: Al Uqşur; Luqsor; Luksor; Louksor; El Uqsor; El Qusur; El Kusur; El Aqsur; El-Aksur

Latitude/Longitude: 25° 41' 00" N/ 032° 39' 00" E

Magnificent desolation--the deserted temple of Luxor, S.W. from top of the first pylon, Egypt



Original stereograph: "[Magnificent desolation--the deserted temple of Luxor, S.W. from top of the first pylon, Egypt.](#)" (Underwood and Underwood, 1904). 7.75 x 4.2 inches. From [TIMEA](#)

Luxor is actually not one location, but three: under the name of “Luxor” you will find the city itself, on the east side of the Nile, the archaeological complex of Karnak only a short distance north of Luxor, and Thebes, which is on the west side of the Nile directly across from Luxor. Even the modern city of Luxor has a pharaonic look to it, as much of its building was completed during the period of Howard Carter’s excavation of King Tut’s tomb. In addition to the Mummification Museum, the city has another museum of local finds. Luxor is the base for trips out to the Valley of Queens, Thebes, and numerous other temples and tombs. This area has been a major tourist attraction since ancient times, and may indeed be referred to as the world’s largest open air museum.

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Nubia

Latitude/Longitude: 20° 00' 00" N/ 032° 00' 00" E

Kasr Ibrim (the fort of Ibrim) and a Nile vista to the N. N. F. in lower Nubia, Egypt.



Original stereograph: "[Kasr Ibrim \(the fort of Ibrim\) and a Nile vista to the N. N. F. in lower Nubia, Egypt.](#)" (Underwood and Underwood, 1904). 7.75 x 4.2 inches. From [TIMEA](#)

A region in the southernmost portion of modern Egypt. Today the region is partially in Egypt while the rest is in Sudan.

Related Resources

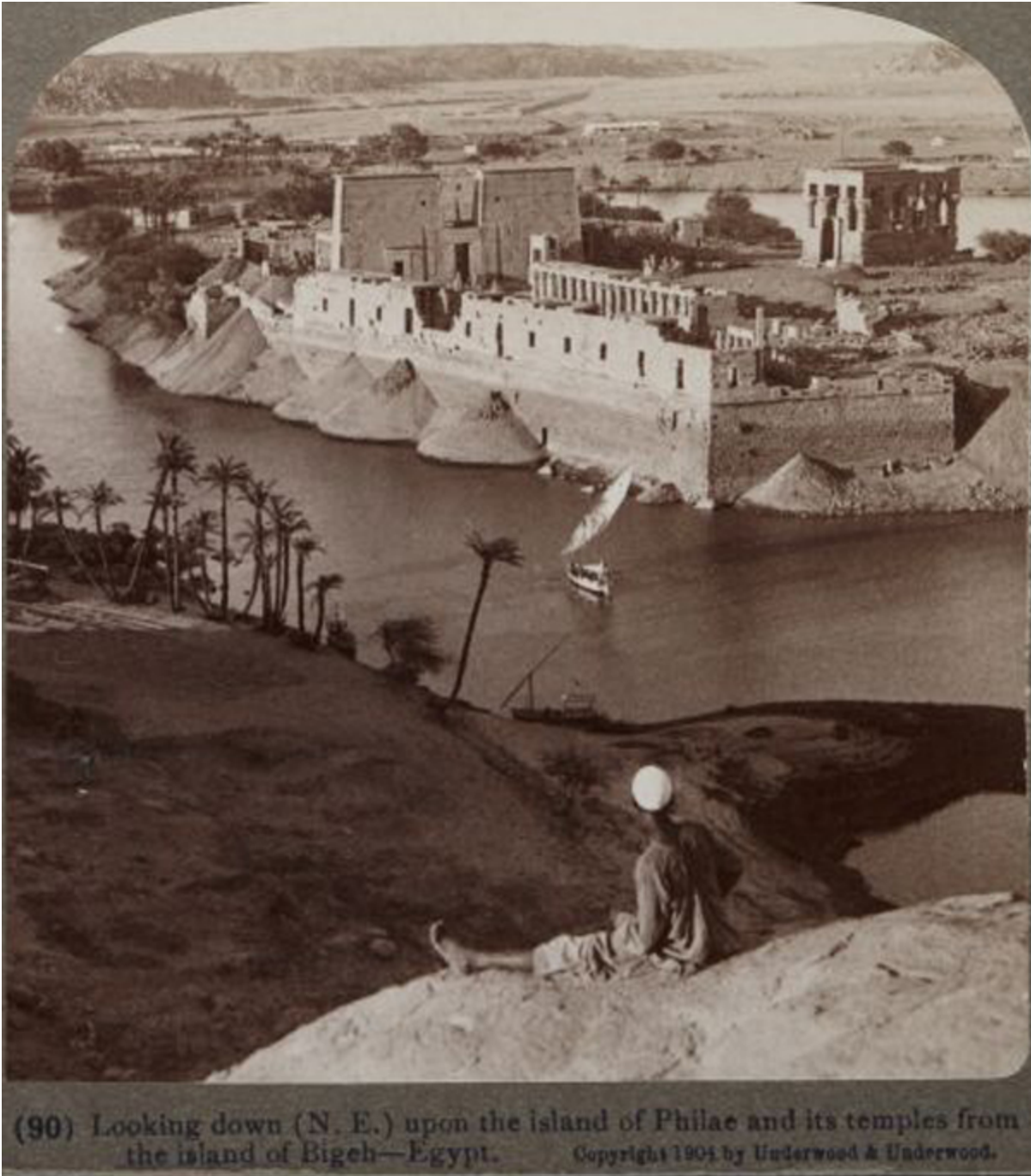
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Philae

Alternative Names: Fīlah, Jazīrat

Latitude/Longitude: 24° 01' 00" N/ 032° 53' 00" E

Loooking down (N.E.) upon the island of Philae and its temples from the isLand of Bigeh--Egypt.



Original stereograph: "[Looking down \(N.E.\) upon the island of Philae and its temples from the island of Bigeh--Egypt.](#)" (Underwood and Underwood, 1904). 7.75 x 4.2 inches. From [TIMEA](#)

Called “The Pearl of Egypt,” Philae was an island in the area of Aswan, in the southern portion of Upper Egypt, and it was the location of the Temple of Isis and the Kiosk of Trajan as well as a few other temples. After the construction of the Old Aswan Dam, the island was partially submerged during certain times of the year, and algae discolored the stone as well as eroded some of the reliefs. The situation became more serious after the new Aswan High Dam was built, and the island was completely submerged, thus washing away the paintings that adorned the buildings. With help from UNESCO and Egypt’s Supreme Council of Antiquities, a coffer dam was built around the island, and the monuments were moved, stone by stone, to nearby Agilka island, which was carefully landscaped to look as much like Philae as possible.

Related Resources

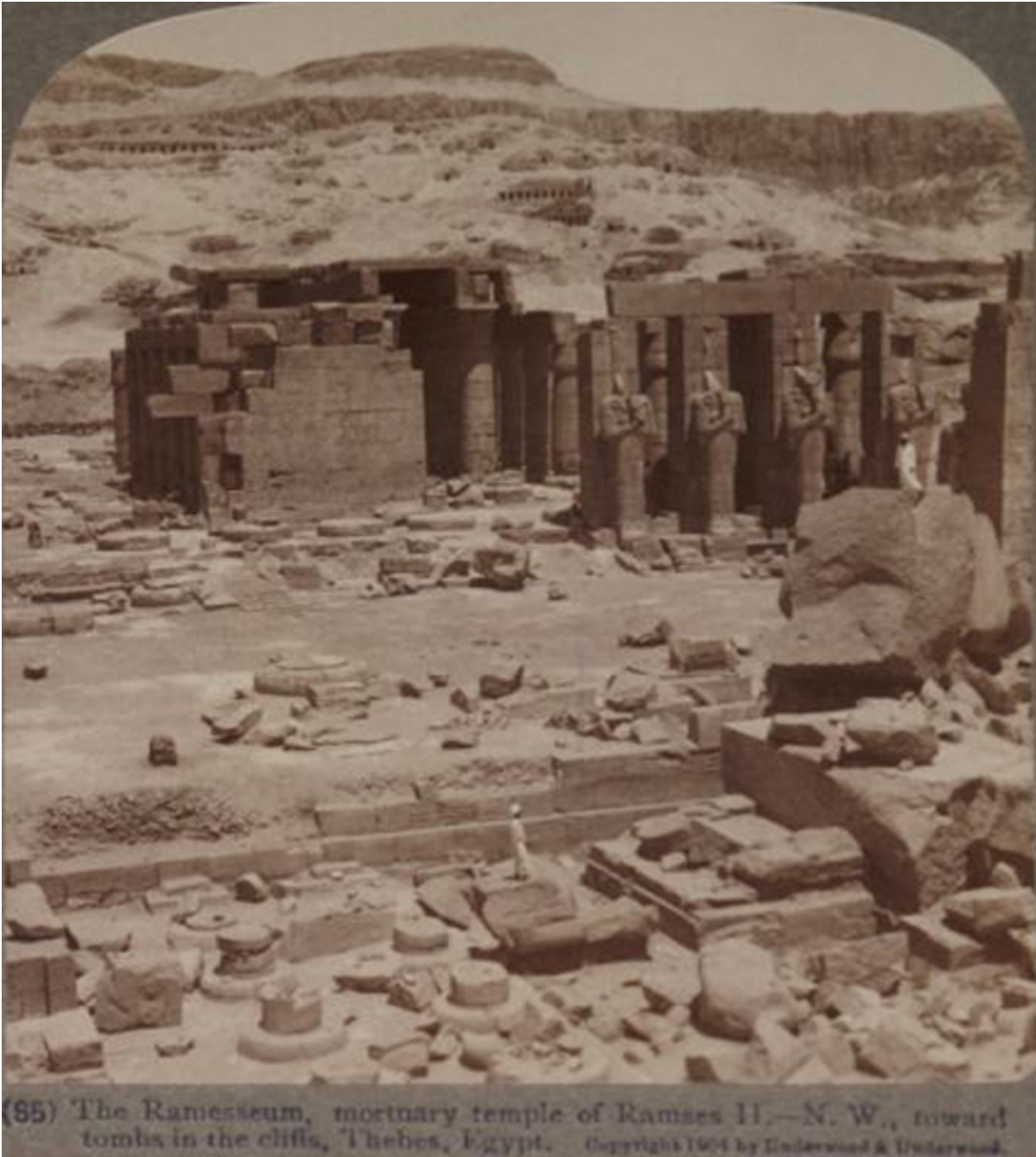
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Ramesseum

Alternative Names: Osymandyas, Tomb of

Latitude/Longitude: 25° 44’ 00” N/032° 37' 00" E

Ramesseum, mortuary temple of Ramses II, The.-- N.W., toward tombs in the cliffs, Thebes, Egypt.



Original stereograph: "[Ramesseum, mortuary temple of Ramses II, The.-- N.W., toward tombs in the cliffs, Thebes, Egypt.](#)" (Underwood and Underwood, 1904). 7.75 x 4.2 inches. From [TIMEA](#)

Although this much-visited site, located on the Theban necropolis on the west bank of the Nile across from Luxor, is the home to several temples, this site is known to most westerners as the site of the Tomb of Osymandyas, immortalized in Shelley's poem "Ozymandias". Osymandyas is one of the names of Rameses II, who built a huge mortuary temple to the god Amen-Re at Ramesseum, as well as smaller temples in honor of his wife and mother. Damaged by the Nile flood waters, the temple and its colossi were of great interest to Europeans, and Belzoni engineered the removal of a seven ton head to London, where it was proudly displayed in the British Museum. This object, and the objects which Shelley knew to have remained in Egypt, inspired his very famous poem.

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Thebes

Latitude/Longitude: 25° 42' 00" N/ 032° 41' 00" E

Looking north to the mortuary temple of Sethos I., at Thebes, Egypt.



Original stereograph: "[Looking north to the mortuary temple of Sethos I., at Thebes, Egypt.](#)" (Underwood and Underwood, 1904).
7.75 x 4.2 inches. From [TIMEA](#)

The name Thebes generally refers to the entire region, on both the east and west banks of the Nile near the modern city of Luxor. This area served as the capital of Egypt in periods of both the Middle Kingdom and the New Kingdom, and is testament to the glories of ancient Egyptian monument building. The area, in Upper Egypt, encompasses the Temples at Karnak and Luxor on the east bank, and the Colossi of Memmnnon, the Ramesseum, and the Valleys of the Kings and Queens on the west bank. Collectively, Thebes is home to the greatest concentration of major ancient sites in the world.

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